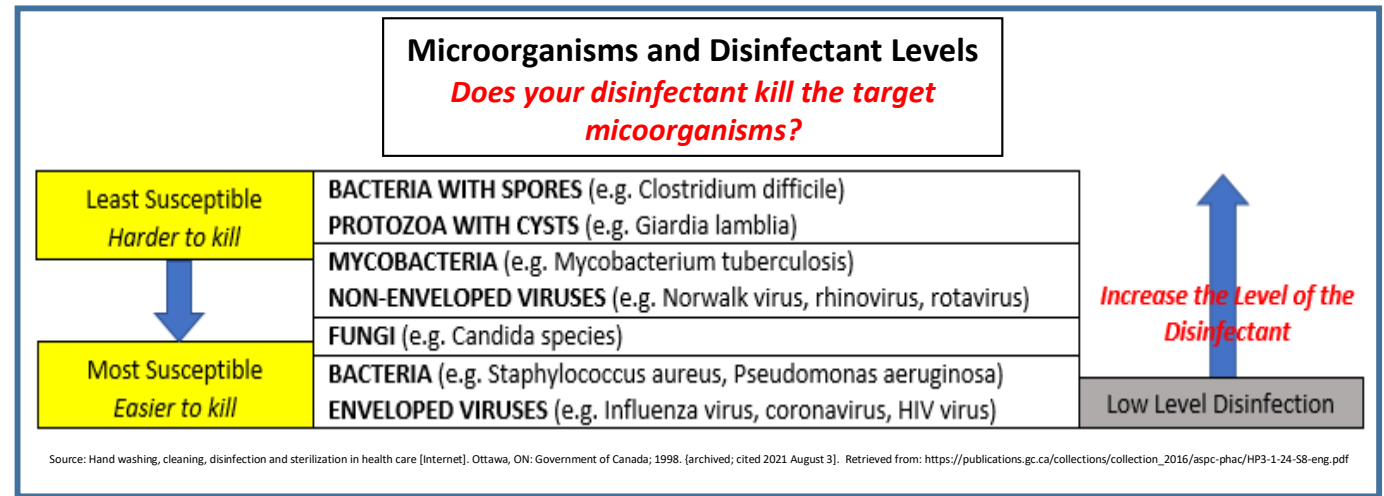


SE Hub Tip Sheet

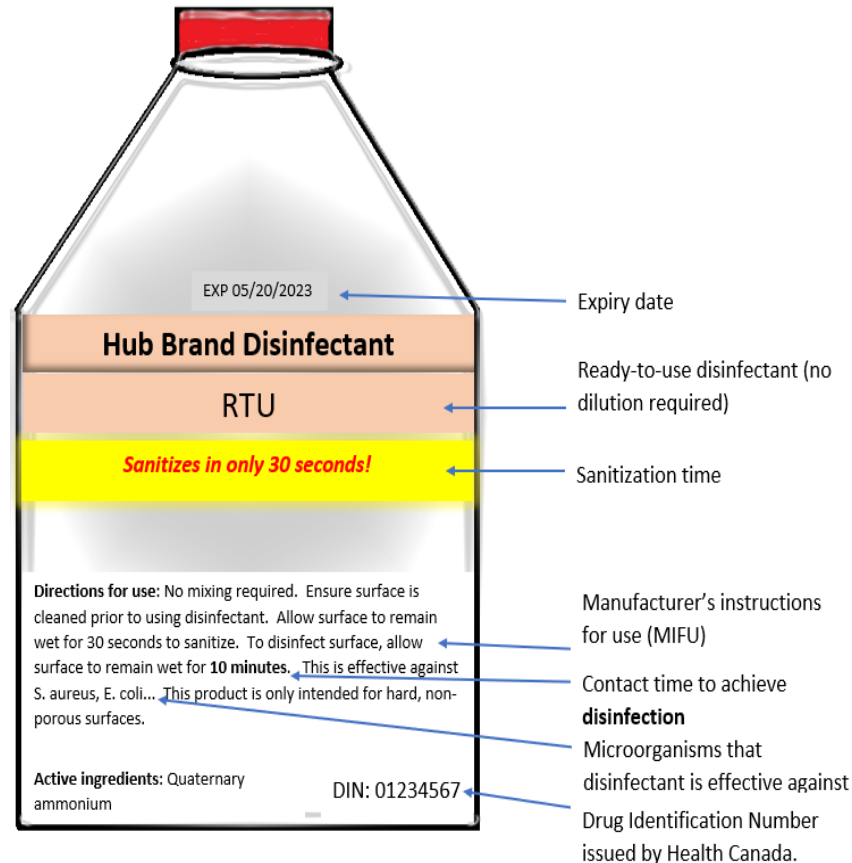
Choosing a Disinfectant

Characteristics of an Ideal Disinfectant

- ◆ Broad antimicrobial spectrum – especially against microorganism(s) of concern
- ◆ Fast acting/quick kill, short contact time
- ◆ Not affected by environmental factors: should be active in the presence of organic matter (e.g., blood, sputum, feces) and compatible with soaps, detergents, and other chemicals
- ◆ Nontoxic, nonflammable
- ◆ Surface compatibility: does not corrode instruments and metallic surfaces and not cause the deterioration of cloth, rubber, plastics, or other materials
- ◆ Residual effect on treated surfaces: should leave an antimicrobial film on the treated surface
- ◆ Easy to use with clear label directions
- ◆ Acceptable odor/odorless
- ◆ Water soluble
- ◆ Stability: should be stable in concentrate and use-dilution
- ◆ Cleaner: should have good cleaning properties, and act as a 2-in-1 cleaner/disinfectant
- ◆ Environmentally friendly



Disinfectant Bottle Example



Kill Claim: Some disinfectants only kill the easy to kill microorganisms. Choose the product with the claim against the microorganisms trying to kill.

Contact Time: The surface must remain wet for the entire contact time to achieve disinfection. Always follow the time for disinfection and not the sanitization time.

Expire Date: Ensure product is not expired. If it is expired it may not work as promised and shouldn't be used.

Ready-to-use: RTU is preferred over manual dilution and mixing. If it needs to be diluted, check how long it lasts after mixing.

Manufacturer's Instructions: Always follow these instructions when using the product.

DIN: Must have an 8-digit Drug Identification Number from Health Canada (sodium hypochlorite and alcohol-based disinfectants are exceptions).

SE Hub Tip Sheet

Cleaning & Disinfection

General Cleaning Practices

Before Cleaning:

- Gather supplies before entering the room
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, contact time for cleaning & disinfection solutions
- Always use routine practices and check for any additional precautions, use appropriate PPE
- Remove clutter before cleaning

During Cleaning:

- Use a systematic workflow
- Remove heavy soiling before cleaning/disinfection
- Remove dust/debris with a dry mop (broom/sweeper) prior to wet mopping
- Do not double dip cloths
- Change cloths/mop heads frequently
- Change floor cleaning solution based on manufacturer's instructions, more frequently in heavily contaminated areas, if visibly soiled or after blood/bodily fluid s
- Watch for sharps

After Cleaning:

- Don't overstock
- Cleaning equipment must be cleaned between uses
- Launder mop heads daily and allow to dry thoroughly
- Clean housekeeping carts, carts transporting waste or linen daily



Unclean



Cleaned



Sanitized



Disinfected

What is Cleaning?

Cleaning is the removal of foreign material (e.g., dust, soil, organic material such as blood, bodily fluids and microorganisms) from a surface or object. Cleaning physically removes rather than kills microorganisms, reducing the organism load on a surface. It is accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action. **The key to cleaning is the use of friction to remove microorganisms and debris.**

What is Sanitizing?

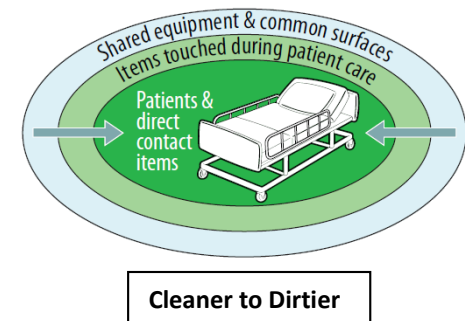
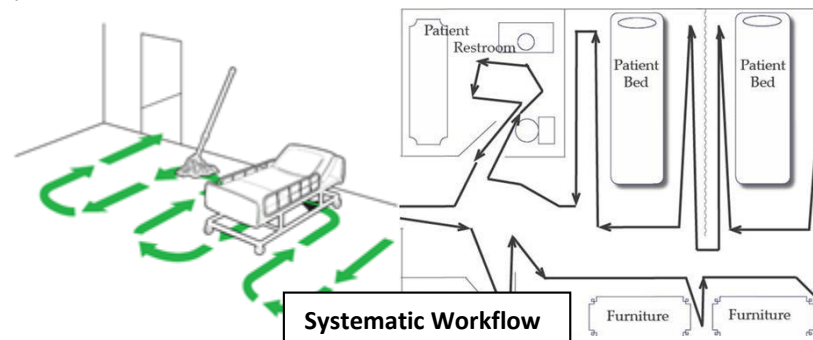
Sanitizing is a process used on inanimate objects and surfaces to *reduce* microorganisms identified on the product's label. **Cleaning is required before sanitizing.**

***Sanitizing is not appropriate for care settings – only cleaning and disinfection. Follow the products contact time for disinfection, not sanitizing.**

What is Disinfection?

Disinfection is a process used on inanimate objects and hard surfaces to *kill* microorganisms. Disinfection will kill most disease-causing microorganisms but may not kill all bacterial spores. **Cleaning is required before disinfection as organic material can inactivate a disinfectant.**

Systematic Workflow: plan a logical, systematic pattern following optimal cleaning/disinfection guidelines: highest point to the lowest (top to bottom), outside walls to the center of the room, cleaner areas to dirtier areas. Do not 'double dip' the cloth into the bucket. The bathroom should be cleaned last. Developing a checklist and schedule will help to standardize workflow.



Visit our [website](#) or [YouTube](#) page for videos on choosing a disinfectant and reading the label of a disinfectant.

Video: [Choosing a disinfectant](#)

Video: [Reading the label of a disinfectant](#)

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (September 18, 2016). Infection Control: Table 2. Properties of an ideal disinfectant. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/tables/table2.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (April 21, 2020). Healthcare-associated Infections: Environmental Cleaning Procedures. Retrieved from: https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/resource-limited/cleaning-procedures.html#anchor_1585929362118

Health Canada. (December, 1998). Infection control guidelines: Hand Washing, Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization in Health Care. Retrieved from: https://publications.gc.ca/site/archivee-archived.html?url=https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2016/aspc-phac/HP3-1-24-S8-eng.pdf

Public Health Ontario. (July 16, 2021). Key Elements of Environmental Cleaning in Healthcare Settings. Retrieved from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/2020/10/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning-hcs.pdf>

Public Health Ontario. (July 30, 2021). Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings. Retrieved from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf>

Disclaimer: The information provided is based off evidence based practice and guidance recommendations at the time. In the event these recommendations contradict an organization's IPC policies and procedures the organizations policies and procedures must be followed. Questions or concerns please contact sehubintake@kingstonhsc.ca